

ager of the Rangers, Neil Smith, Coach Colin Campbell and Assistant Coach Dick Todd. And I think Congressman Eliot Engel was supposed to be here, and he is unless they're still voting.

It was last June 14th when the Rangers won the Stanley Cup, finally breaking the infamous curse. The next day I got a letter from Senator Moynihan, a big Ranger fan, who said that since the Rangers brought the Cup back to Madison Square Garden, I should bring the Rangers to the Rose Garden. I'm delighted you're finally here. We've been trying to arrange this visit for some time, but what's a few months compared to 54 years. [Laughter]

I can't tell you how much I personally enjoyed the playoffs. I really got into them. I tried to rearrange my schedule so that I could see the games. I enjoyed seeing Mark Messier predicting and delivering a victory when your backs were against the wall. I enjoyed Brian Leetch's MVP playoff performance, the first by an American-born player. And I especially enjoyed your goalie, Mike Richter's, acrobatic saves. All of us here in Washington can appreciate what goalies do because we have so many shots taken at us every day. [Laughter] And I was hoping, maybe in addition to a jersey, one of you could loan me a face mask for the next year or so. [Laughter]

I also want to say something that I observed watching these playoffs. Stars alone don't win championships; teams do. I remember your chant from last year, "Heave ho. Everybody pulling together." This year it's turned into "Heave ho. Two in a row."

The Stanley Cup is the oldest trophy competition by professional athletes in North America, the only trophy that bears the names of not only the teams but the individual players who won it.

I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation because the Rangers boast the first four Russians ever to have their names engraved on the Stanley Cup, another sign of our increasingly interconnected global community and America's outreach to the rest of the world.

I also admire the tradition that the entire team shares the Stanley Cup. Each player gets to take it home to friends and to family.

This team took that one step further, because the Rangers know that teamwork isn't only about the guys who lace up the skates, it's also about your fans, too. And if ever a team had great fans, you do. So you paid your fans back by remembering right after the victory a longtime fan who had passed away, by bringing the cup to sick children in the hospital and even by bringing the cup to restaurants and bars throughout New York—[laughter]—as well as to one of the Vice President's favorite hangouts, the David Letterman show.

For all that, I thank you. Your victory has shown us what is best about professional sports, perseverance, hard work, real commitment to working together. It's an example for which all of us in Madison Square Garden and the Rose Garden are very grateful.

Congratulations, and welcome again.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### March 12

The President declared a major disaster in the State of California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by winter storms that caused flooding, landslides, and mud debris flows beginning February 13.

### March 13

In the afternoon, the President was presented with the Boy Scout Report to the Nation by Boy Scout of America representatives in the Oval Office.

### March 14

The President declared a major disaster in the State of South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe win-

ter storms for the period of January 13–February 10.

The President announced his intention to appoint Paul Warnke, Albert Carnesale, Mike Mochizuki, and Gregory van der Vink to be members of the Scientific and Policy Advisory Committee of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The President announced his intention to appoint LeRoy F. Saunders to the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

### **March 15**

In the morning, the President met with California State legislators in the Roosevelt Room to discuss flood relief efforts.

### **March 16**

In the afternoon, the President attended a St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Capitol. Later, he briefly met with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia; Kresimir Zubak, President, and Ejup Ganic, Vice President, Federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats; and Tatjana Lujic-Mijatovic, Presidency Member, Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Roosevelt Room. He then met with President Tudjman in the Oval Office.

The President declared nine additional counties in California as major disaster areas following winter storms which caused flooding and mud slides.

### **March 17**

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted an Irish reception on the State Floor.

The President announced his intention to appoint Linda Alvarado to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mary Houghton to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Credit Standards Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., and John A. Georges to be members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations for Foreign Service officers.

### **Submitted March 14**

Mary Beck Briscoe,  
of Kansas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice James K. Logan, retired.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

### **Released March 13**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

### **Released March 14**

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's intention to issue an Executive order prohibiting certain transactions with respect to development of Iranian petroleum resources

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing that the Justice Department will join an appeal of the decision in a Federal District Court in Texas on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Announcement of the nomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

### **Released March 15**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on reinventing Government